



**Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Program  
Position Description - Interpretation and Education Division**

at the Mississippi River's National Park  
Twin Cities metro area, Minnesota  
[www.nps.gov/miss](http://www.nps.gov/miss)

Teacher-Ranger-Teachers (TRT's) working with the park's Interpretation and Education Team will be involved in a variety of programs and activities with the goal of providing a well-rounded experience during an eight-week summer period (32 hours/week). TRT's will learn about the National Park Service, interpret the Mississippi River's natural and cultural history, and work with a broad range of visitors and circumstances. They may provide interpretation and programs during outdoor recreation activities such as canoeing, biking and camping, provide information in the Mississippi River Visitor Center, or conduct activities at one of many partner parks and sites throughout the metro area. Applicants should enjoy active outdoor recreation and tolerate a wide range of outdoor conditions. A driver's license is required; experience paddling and cycling are helpful. TRT's work with light supervision and independently. Work schedules vary with some weekend and evening hours likely.

The following are areas in which Teacher-Rangers may work (one area will be a primary focus):

**School and Youth Programs/Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures**

Teacher-Rangers will assist with school visits and field trips on or along the Mississippi River, including the "Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures" (requiring ability to captain a large voyageur canoe); delivery of programs to students in the park's visitor center, partner facilities and/or in schools; special events, outreach and related tasks. Review and enhancement of the park's educational materials and curricula resources may be included.

**Recreation and Park Programs**

Teacher-Rangers will assist and lead bicycling, canoeing, and/or walking tours and other interpretive programs (also including Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures). They will provide informal interpretation and tours along the riverfront in places like downtown Minneapolis, Minnehaha Park, Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park and Hastings. Teacher-Rangers may also present programs at partner visitor centers, river festivals, fairs, and events elsewhere within the park. The position may include portraying or escorting the park's costumed mascot, Freddie the Flathead Catfish!

**Volunteers-In-Parks program**

Teacher-Rangers may work with the Volunteers-In-Parks program to support volunteer engagement with the diverse natural resources of the park for activities such as invasive plant removal or restoration projects. The Teacher-Ranger will conduct interpretive programs during habitat restoration events in the field for visitors of all ages. This focus area may include helping with volunteer recruitment, outreach, and administration.

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### **Mississippi River Visitor Center**

Teacher-Rangers will help staff the Mississippi River Visitor Center, located in the Science Museum of Minnesota, downtown Saint Paul. Work involves interpreting the Mississippi River and the entire National Park System to a wide range of visitors in an informal setting, and may include selling related merchandise. Teacher-Rangers will also be expected to occasionally present a more formal program in the Mississippi River Gallery. Duties include miscellaneous tasks such as record keeping, brochure distribution and visitor center operations.

### **Technology**

Teacher-Rangers may work with electronic-based interpretive materials by reviewing or updating information posted on the website; assisting park employees with researching, obtaining and developing content for the website; enhancing web and computer kiosks for teachers and students. Experience with development of information in printed and on-line formats is helpful.

### **Natural Resource Management**

Even though this position is about interpretation and education, the Teacher-Ranger will have an opportunity to spend some time with the park's natural and cultural resource management staff. The goal is to have each TRT able to share many park experiences and career opportunities with their students and other teachers. Teacher-Rangers will have opportunities to spend time on and off the river with the Biological Technicians, making site visits, participating in water quality initiatives, or other activities depending on weather and workloads.

### **Duties when back in the classroom**

During the school year TRT's incorporate activities related to the Mississippi River and National Parks into their classroom curriculum. During National Park Week they wear the NPS uniform, conduct activities related to National Parks, give special presentations to their classes, and may present to a school assembly and/or another school within the district.